

AMSINCKIA IN NEW ENGLAND.

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THE plants belonging to the genus *Amsinckia*, at home in western North and South America, show a decided tendency to wander from their native haunts, establishing themselves as permanent weeds in near locations, and even appearing at intervals in eastern United States, while they have been recorded from Denmark and Australia.¹ An account of the occurrence of the genus in New England may prove of interest.

Amsinckia barbata Greene is a native of British Columbia and includes *A. lycopsoides* of Gray's Manual, 7th edition, 1908,² not Lehm., the latter being a species of the state of Washington and not yet recorded as an escape. *A. barbata* has been found in Southington, Connecticut, by Luman Andrews and is recorded in the Catalogue of Flowering Plants and Ferns of Connecticut 328 (1910). The specimen has been determined at the Gray Herbarium. To this species has been doubtfully referred³ a specimen in the Herb. N. E. Bot. Club from Lowell, Massachusetts. It is a fragmentary bit and is apparently abnormally developed.

I was much pleased to find a single plant of *A. barbata* on July 3, 1918, in Shelburne, Coös Co., New Hampshire. It was growing in a narrow strip of grass by the railroad near the station and was just beginning to flower. As the species could not be determined without fruit I reluctantly left it for a while. Its close proximity to freight cars with the accompanying men and horses moving about made the spot a dangerous place to leave a plant. All, however, went well till July 11, when I discovered to my sorrow that the grass all about had been eaten by horses, and my plant was nowhere to be seen. On the next day, however, July 12, I found the *Amsinckia* in good fruit, quietly resting under a large inverted cask that a strange chance had turned over it. It is an interesting record for Shelburne and for New Hampshire. The specimen has been identified at the Gray Herbarium, and is in my own collection.

¹ J. F. Macbride, Contrib. Gray Herb. xlix. 1 (1917).

² J. F. Macbride, RHODORA xviii. 27 (1916).

³ J. F. Macbride, l. c.

There is a single instance of the occurrence of *A. arenaria* Suksd. in New England, the species having been recorded from Nantucket by Mr. E. P. Bicknell under the name of *A. intermedia* F. & M. in Bull. Torr. Bot. Club xlii. 39 (1915). He says there were "a number of plants in scattered growth. . . . near Surfside, in full flower and fruit, July 4, 1912." Later in Bull. Torr. Bot. Club xlv. 382-383 (1918) he states that he had submitted specimens to Mr. Macbride who refers them, "perhaps not without some uncertainty," to *A. arenaria* Suksd.

The occurrence in New England of *A. intactilis* Macbr. makes another record of the first appearance of an *Amsinckia* outside its native home. This is a species described in Contrib. Gray Herb. xlix. 13 (1917). It was known only from Glen Co., California, and Washoe Co., Nevada. It has handsome yellow flowers, 15 mm. long, and a long fruiting calyx. My cousin, Miss Grace Deane Williams, sent me on May 22, 1918, a fragment of this species from Shelburne, Franklin Co., Massachusetts, where she had found the plant in a sheep pasture near a chicken yard. It was the only specimen seen. I received on June 2 another fragment in full flower, and the entire plant was carefully protected until it was in good fruit when it was collected on July 16 and it is now in my herbarium. Mr. Macbride calls it "seemingly an introduced state." The specific characters, however, fix it in this species, and it makes an interesting addition to our New England flora.

Yet another species has been definitely recorded from New England. Through the kindness of Mr. Robert Scoville and Mrs. J. R. Sanford of Salisbury, Connecticut, an *Amsinckia* has been sent for determination to the Gray Herbarium. It was collected on June 16, 1903, at "Grasslands," Mr. Scoville's estate in Salisbury, by Mrs. Orra Parker Phelps, and was recorded in the Connecticut Flora, above mentioned, as *A. lycopsoides* Lehm. It proves to be *A. Menziesii* (Lehm.) Nels. & Macbr. This species has also been collected on waste ground in Hartford, Connecticut, by Mr. C. H. Bissell, on June 30, 1903. It also was recorded in the Connecticut Flora as *A. lycopsoides* Lehm. before Mr. Macbride's revision of the genus. Further study at the Gray Herbarium has settled its identification.

Dr. Chas. B. Graves of New London, Connecticut, has recently sent to the Gray Herbarium specimens of an *Amsinckia* collected "by Mr. E. F. Burleson of Jewett City, Connecticut, on June 14 and

July 5, 1917, in Griswold, Connecticut." This, too, proves to be *A. Menziesii* (Lehm.) Nels. & Macbr. This species is a native of Vancouver Island and western United States, and has been found as an introduction in Missouri and Illinois, which is a stepping stone to New England.

There have been now recorded for New England *A. barbata* Greene, *A. Menziesii* (Lehm.) Nels. & Macbr., *A. arenaria* Suksd. and *A. intactilis* Macbr. In addition to these mention may be made of two other species, *A. spectabilis* F. & M. and *A. intermedia* F. & M. (Macbride, l. c.) which have not been investigated as there are apparently no specimens in existence. The above records bear out the statement made by Mr. Macbride in RHODORA cited above that "other species that are essentially weedy in character in their native habitats . . . are to be expected in the eastern States."

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

CAREX FLAVA, VAR. GASPENSIS IN VERMONT.—*Carex flava* L., var. *gaspensis* Fernald, RHODORA, viii. 200 (1906), originally described from the limestone valleys of the Gaspé Peninsula, was found by Fernald & Wiegand in 1909 in eastern Aroostook County, Maine, and in 1910 in the limestone valleys of western Newfoundland. It is, therefore, interesting to find a characteristic sheet of this variety in the herbarium of the late Dr. George G. Kennedy, collected at Second Bog, Willoughby, Vermont, September 4, 1896. This is apparently the first record of the variety, which is distinguished by the slender subulate perigynia, from Vermont.—M. L. FERNALD, Gray Herbarium.

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